

## Statement on World Refugee Day *June 20, 2002*

On World Refugee Day, I commend the determination and bravery of refugees fleeing tyranny in many parts of the world. This year's celebration focuses upon refugee women. They deserve our special admiration for overcoming the daunting challenges they face every day. Today is also a time to be reminded of the terrible circumstances that drive people from their homelands in search of freedom and safety. America will always stand firm for the non-negotiable demands of human dignity and the rule of law.

As a country that has seen so many refugees contribute so much to our society, this day has special meaning for Americans. I am proud that we are the largest donor to the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and the world's

leader in accepting refugees for resettlement. Today I reaffirm our commitment to protect and assist refugees, promote their right to seek asylum, and provide opportunities for their resettlement, as needed.

This year in Afghanistan, over a million Afghan refugees are returning home to restart their lives in a country free of Taliban oppression. Americans are proud of our contribution to this progress and will continue to assist in these efforts.

This day we also recognize UNHCR and private voluntary organizations for their courage and tireless work under often extraordinarily difficult conditions. Their efforts bring hope to millions of refugees worldwide.

## Message to the Senate Transmitting the Treaty Between the United States of America and the Russian Federation on Strategic Offensive Reductions *June 20, 2002*

*To the Senate of the United States:*

I transmit herewith, for the advice and consent of the Senate to ratification, the Treaty Between the United States of America and the Russian Federation on Strategic Offensive Reductions, signed at Moscow on May 24, 2002 (the "Moscow Treaty").

The Moscow Treaty represents an important element of the new strategic relationship between the United States and Russia. It will take our two nations along a stable, predictable path to substantial reductions in our deployed strategic nuclear warhead arsenals by December 31, 2012. When these reductions are completed, each country will be at the lowest level of deployed strategic nuclear warheads in decades. This will benefit the peoples of both the United

States and Russia and contribute to a more secure world.

The Moscow Treaty codifies my determination to break through the long impasse in further nuclear weapons reductions caused by the inability to finalize agreements through traditional arms control efforts. In the decade following the collapse of the Soviet Union, both countries' strategic nuclear arsenals remained far larger than needed, even as the United States and Russia moved toward a more cooperative relationship. On May 1, 2001, I called for a new framework for our strategic relationship with Russia, including further cuts in nuclear weapons to reflect the reality that the Cold War is over. On November 13, 2001, I announced the United States plan

for such cuts—to reduce our operationally deployed strategic nuclear warheads to a level of between 1700 and 2200 over the next decade. I announced these planned reductions following a careful study within the Department of Defense. That study, the Nuclear Posture Review, concluded that these force levels were sufficient to maintain the security of the United States. In reaching this decision, I recognized that it would be preferable for the United States to make such reductions on a reciprocal basis with Russia, but that the United States would be prepared to proceed unilaterally.

My Russian counterpart, President Putin, responded immediately and made clear that he shared these goals. President Putin and I agreed that our nations' respective reductions should be recorded in a legally binding document that would outlast both of our presidencies and provide predictability over the longer term. The result is a Treaty that was agreed without protracted negotiations. This Treaty fully meets the goals I set out for these reductions.

It is important for there to be sufficient openness so that the United States and Russia can each be confident that the other is fulfilling its reductions commitment. The Parties will use the comprehensive verification regime of the Treaty on the Reduction and Limitation of Strategic Offensive Arms (the "START Treaty") to provide the foundation for confidence, transparency, and predictability in further strategic offensive reductions. In our Joint Declaration on the New Strategic Relationship between the United States and Russia, President Putin and I also decided to establish a Consultative Group for Strategic Security to be chaired by Foreign and Defense Ministers. This body will be the principal mechanism through which the United States and Russia strengthen mutual con-

fidence, expand transparency, share information and plans, and discuss strategic issues of mutual interest.

The Moscow Treaty is emblematic of our new, cooperative relationship with Russia, but it is neither the primary basis for this relationship nor its main component. The United States and Russia are partners in dealing with the threat of terrorism and resolving regional conflicts. There is growing economic interaction between the business communities of our two countries and ever-increasing people-to-people and cultural contacts and exchanges. The U.S. military has put Cold War practices behind it, and now plans, sizes, and sustains its forces in recognition that Russia is not an enemy, Russia is a friend. Military-to-military and intelligence exchanges are well established and growing.

The Moscow Treaty reflects this new relationship with Russia. Under it, each Party retains the flexibility to determine for itself the composition and structure of its strategic offensive arms, and how reductions are made. This flexibility allows each Party to determine how best to respond to future security challenges.

There is no longer the need to narrowly regulate every step we each take, as did Cold War treaties founded on mutual suspicion and an adversarial relationship.

In sum, the Moscow Treaty is clearly in the best interests of the United States and represents an important contribution to U.S. national security and strategic stability. I therefore urge the Senate to give prompt and favorable consideration to the Treaty, and to advise and consent to its ratification.

GEORGE W. BUSH

The White House,  
June 20, 2002.

## Remarks at the Leon H. Sullivan Summit Dinner June 20, 2002

Well, thank you all very much. The kindest gift anyone can give a President and his family is prayer, and I appreciate the prayers.

I'm so honored to be with you all to pay tribute to an exceptional man and to further a great cause. Leon Sullivan understood an important principle: If we want to live in a world that is free, we must work for a world that is just. The free people of America have a duty to advance the cause of freedom in Africa. American interests and American morality lead in the same direction. We will work in partnership with African nations and leaders for an African continent that lives in liberty and grows in prosperity.

I want to thank Andrew Young for his service to our great country. I appreciate his friendship. I also want to welcome my friend the President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria on the stage, and I want to congratulate him on receiving the prestigious Leon H. Sullivan Summit Award. You have picked a good man. I want to thank Jack Kemp for supporting this organization. I appreciate his—[*applause*].

It has been my honor tonight to meet the Sullivan family, headed by a fantastic lady, Grace Sullivan, who has raised beautiful children, people who are willing to follow the example of their dad. We were—Hope and I were talking about that we had a lot in common. You know, we both have got famous fathers and strong mothers. [*Laughter*] I appreciate very much Julie and Howard and meeting the grandkids. It's a thrill to be here. Your dad and your grandfather was a great American. That's the only way to call it.

I appreciate so very much members of my Cabinet and my inner circle being here, of course, the great Secretary of State, Colin Powell; Secretary of Treasury Paul O'Neill; the National Security Adviser,

Condoleezza Rice. I see the Deputy Director of HUD, my friend Alphonso Jackson.

I also appreciate Members of Congress who are here tonight, members of the diplomatic corps. It's good to see the Ambassadors from the African nations, many of whom I've had a chance to spend some quality time with. It's great to see Coretta Scott King here as well.

Thank you all for coming and supporting this important dinner. Thank you for giving me the chance to talk about my administration's plans for the continent of Africa.

I'm really grateful, though, that the Secretary of State and Treasury are here. See, it was last May that Secretary Powell became the first member of my Cabinet to travel to Africa. And this May, Secretary O'Neill was the latest member of my Cabinet to travel to Africa. He and Bono were quickly dubbed "The Odd Couple." [*Laughter*] But they soon found out that the rock star could hold his own in debates on real growth rates and that the Secretary of Treasury is second to none in compassion. I knew the trip had had an effect on our Secretary when he showed up in the Oval Office wearing blue sunglasses. [*Laughter*]

Here's what we believe. Africa is a continent where promise and progress are important, and we recognize they sit alongside disease, war, and desperate poverty, sometimes even in the same village. Africa is a place where a few nations are havens for terrorism and where many more—many more—are reaching to claim their democratic future. Africa is a place of great beauty and resources and a place of great opportunity. So tonight I announce that in order to continue to build America's partnership with Africa, I'll be going to the continent next year.

Can I come to your place? I think the President has in mind a particular stop.